

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 17-19 and 25-29 are pending in this case. Claim 18 stands allowed. Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-12, 17, 19 and 25-29 stand finally rejected. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the present Amendment after Final Rejection and Remarks by Applicants.

The rejection of claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-12, 17, 19-20 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Burns *et al*, WO 02/060492 is being maintained by the Examiner. In the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that the instant compounds differ from the reference compounds only by a -CH₂- group (in the present R² position) and therefore the reference provides sufficient motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare the compounds such as those of the instant claims with the reasonable expectation of obtaining compounds with similar properties. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention. However, in the interest of moving the prosecution forward and getting the claims allowed, Applicants have now cancelled "alkyl", "methyl" etc for R² from the claims. Applicants believe that this amendment should satisfy the Examiner's concerns. Applicants, however, would like to emphasize that the amendment is being done with a sincere desire to further the prosecution along and should not be perceived as an admission that the cancelled scope of the claims is not patentable. Applicants preserve the right to pursue such scope later by divisional application(s), if Applicants choose to do so. Withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for use of the term "treatment". That term has now been amended to read "inhibition" as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

There being no other rejections pending, Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, are in allowable condition and such an action is earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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